



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"HIRE A HERO, HIRE A VET" DRAWS HUNDREDS OF VETERANS AND EMPLOYERS *Honors Vet Sacrifices with Easy Access to a Variety of New Career Options*

San Bernardino – Eight hundred skilled and motivated job seekers, 400 of whom were veterans, and 125 employers eager to hire them, came together in an unprecedented collaboration of service providers, apprenticeship sponsors, education institutions and state agencies at a "Hire a Hero, Hire a Vet" job and resource fair in San Bernardino today. The fair is one in a series of ten statewide designed as part of Governor Schwarzenegger's initiative to open employment and education avenues for veterans.

"If an employer is looking for someone who is task oriented, skilled, well trained and capable of following orders, then veterans are the best candidates they can find and these job fairs are a great opportunity to connect with qualified candidates," said California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Tom Johnson.

California is home to 2.2 million veterans, more than any other state. But often, they may encounter difficulties in securing employment or returning to civilian life. Further, recently returning veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 have an unemployment rate as high as 10%.

"The Hire a Hero, Hire a Vet" fair creates a rare opportunity for veterans to meet with employers who are ready to hire and public and private agencies eager to help with education, training, apprenticeships and other services," said Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

The job and resource fair is designed to assist veterans transitioning into civilian life by providing a variety of career, training, education, and support services...all in one location. At the same time, employers can find many of the skilled and motivated employees they need to help build their businesses.

"This veterans resource fair gives employers an opportunity to hire some of the best job candidates – women and men with top notch employment skills, as well as the discipline, loyalty, leadership and work ethic that make them highly valued employees," said Employment Development Director Patrick Henning.

The series of "Hire a Hero, Hire a Vet" events is supported by a unique collaboration among state agencies that provide services to these veterans: the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency's Employment Development Department (EDD) and the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) Division of Apprenticeship Standards, the California Community Colleges (CCC), and the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA).

The EDD staff at One-Stop Centers throughout the state offer veterans a multitude of employment services

and gives them priority such as placement in medical and health-related jobs through Providing Opportunities for Veterans (PROVET) and in classroom positions through the Troops to Teachers program.

DIR's Division of Apprenticeship Standards administers apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs. These programs not only include traditional labor and construction trades, but also manufacturing, health care, car repair, culinary arts, public safety and other professions. With an apprenticeship, participating veterans can earn a living, learn a lifelong career skill and collect on their GI Bill benefit.

CDVA is the primary conduit for veterans and their families. Among other things, it provides veterans assistance in presenting their claims for veterans' benefits, as well as medical services and low-cost loans to acquire farms and homes.

Community Colleges offer veterans priority status, payment of training costs and assistance in living expenses. While the GI Bill can actually help cover costs of further education and career development, a dependent of a veteran may also be eligible for a Veteran's Fee Waiver to pay college tuition and fees.

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